



**World Food
Programme**

**Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial**

**Programa
Mundial de
Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**

Location: Leer County/Juba, South Sudan

TRT: 01:45

Shot: 25, 27 February 2017

:00-:23

Thonyor, Leer County

Shot 25 February 2017

WFP Rapid Response Mechanism team (RRM) helicopter landing to prepare for WFP airdrops. It also carries medical and nutrition supplies.

People waiting to get WFP assistance.

Child being tested for malnutrition

WFP RRM team member distributing WFP food distribution cards

:23-:40

Juba

Shot: 27 February 2017

SOT (ENG) Joyce Luma, WFP South Sudan Director

"We are deploying rapid response mechanisms to these locations to provide food and nutrition assistance to about 100,000 people that are living under famine conditions."

:40-:50

Thonyor, Leer County

Shot 25 February 20

People gathered near dropzone

:50-01:00

Thonyor, Leer County

Shot 25 February 2017

SOT (Nuer) Nyatuay Gai Joak, mother of nine children, 5 boys and 4 girls.

"Currently we have no food and the entire family depends on water lily and date palm"

01:00-01:03

Thonyor, Leer County

Shot 25 February 20

Child drinking

01:03-01:19

Juba

Shot: 25 February 2017

SOT Joyce Luma, WFP South Sudan Director

“We will go every 4 to 6 weeks, much more frequently than ever but we will also not only provide food and nutrition assistance we will go along with other agencies to ensure that we have an integrated approach.”

01:19-01:45

Thonyor, Leer County

Shot 25 February 2017

Baby eating WFP special highly nutritious therapeutic food

People gathered at WFP food distribution point.

Woman walking away with WFP food ration

- WFP emergency teams and partners are on the ground in three different locations in Leer County this week to get urgently needed food nutrition support and other humanitarian aid to regions affected by famine.
- Video shows tens of thousands of people queuing to register for assistance in Thonyor, which is in Leer County, one of the areas of Unity State declared to be in famine.
- This is the first time WFP has been able to reach the people around Thonyor. Some 36,000 people have been hiding on nearby islands for safety, and have come to the town for aid, including food, medical care and nutrition treatment.
- The first step is a headcount, so WFP knows how many people are there and thus how much food needs to be airdropped for them. During the headcount, people receive WFP food distribution cards and their fingers are inked. Then they move on to a medical team from MedAir, who are vaccinating people against cholera, and after that they move to a site where UNICEF and WFP partners screen for malnutrition.
- Helicopters bring in medical and nutrition supplies as well as some vegetable oil.
- Meanwhile, a WFP team is securing and clearing a drop zone, so airplanes can start dropping food and more nutrition supplies this week.

20 February 2017

FAMINE HITS PARTS OF SOUTH SUDAN

UN agencies warn that almost 5 million people urgently need food, agriculture and nutrition assistance

JUBA – War and a collapsing economy have left some 100,000 people facing starvation in parts of South Sudan where famine was declared today, three UN agencies warned. A further 1 million people are classified as being on the brink of famine.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) also warned that urgent action is needed to prevent more people from dying of hunger. If sustained and adequate assistance is delivered urgently, the hunger situation can be improved in the coming months and further suffering mitigated.

The total number of food insecure people is expected to rise to 5.5 million at the height of the lean season in July if nothing is done to curb the severity and spread of the food crisis.

According to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) update released today by the government, the three agencies and other humanitarian partners, 4.9 million people – more than 40 percent of South Sudan’s population – are in need of urgent food, agriculture and nutrition assistance.

Unimpeded humanitarian access to everyone facing famine, or at risk of famine, is urgently needed to reverse the escalating catastrophe, the UN agencies urged. Further spread of famine can only be prevented if humanitarian assistance is scaled up and reaches the most vulnerable.

Famine is currently affecting parts of Unity State in the northern-central part of the country. A formal famine declaration means people have already started dying of hunger. The situation is the worst hunger catastrophe since fighting erupted more than three years ago.

“Famine has become a tragic reality in parts of South Sudan and our worst fears have been realised. Many families have exhausted every means they have to survive,” said FAO Representative in South Sudan Serge Tissot. “The people are predominantly farmers and war has disrupted agriculture. They’ve lost their livestock, even their farming tools. For months there has been a total reliance on whatever plants they can find and fish they can catch.”

Malnutrition is a major public health emergency, exacerbated by the widespread fighting, displacement, poor access to health services and low coverage of sanitation facilities. The IPC report estimates that 14 of the 23 assessed counties have global acute malnutrition (GAM) at or above the emergency threshold of 15 percent, with some areas as high as 42 percent.

“More than one million children are currently estimated to be acutely malnourished across South Sudan; over a quarter of a million children are already severely malnourished. If we do not reach these children with urgent aid many of them will die,” said Jeremy Hopkins, UNICEF Representative a.i in South Sudan. “We urge all parties to allow humanitarian organizations unrestricted access to the affected populations, so we can assist the most vulnerable and prevent yet another humanitarian catastrophe.”

“This famine is man-made. WFP and the entire humanitarian community have been trying with all our might to avoid this catastrophe, mounting a humanitarian response of a scale that quite frankly would have seemed impossible three years ago. But we have also warned that there is only so much that humanitarian assistance can achieve in the absence of meaningful peace and security, both for relief workers and the crisis-affected people they serve,” said WFP Country Director Joyce Luma. “We will continue doing everything we possibly can to hold off and reverse the spread of famine.”

Across the country, three years of conflict have severely undermined crop production and rural livelihoods. The upsurge in violence since July 2016 has further devastated food production, including in previously stable areas. Soaring inflation – up to 800 percent year-on-year – and market failure have also hit areas that traditionally rely on markets to meet food needs. Urban populations are also struggling to cope with massive price rises on basic food items.

FAO, UNICEF and WFP, with other partners, have conducted massive relief operations since the conflict began, and intensified those efforts throughout 2016 to mitigate the worst effects of the humanitarian crisis. In Northern Bahr El Ghazal state, among others, the IPC assessment team found that humanitarian relief had lessened the risk of famine there.

FAO has provided emergency livelihood kits to more than 2.3 million people to help them fish or plant vegetables. FAO has also vaccinated more than 6 million livestock such as goats and sheep to prevent further loss.

WFP continues to scale up its support in South Sudan as humanitarian needs increase, and plans to provide food and nutrition assistance to 4.1 million people through the hunger season in South Sudan this year. This includes lifesaving emergency food, cash and nutrition assistance for people displaced and affected by conflict, as well as community-based recovery or resilience programs and school meals.

In 2016, WFP reached a record 4 million people in South Sudan with food assistance – including cash assistance amounting to US\$13.8 million, and more than 265,000 metric tons of food and nutrition supplies. It is the largest number of people assisted by WFP in South Sudan since independence, despite problems resulting from the challenging context.

UNICEF aims to treat 207,000 children for severe acute malnutrition in 2017. Working with over 40 partners and in close collaboration with WFP, UNICEF is supporting 620 outpatient therapeutic programme sites and about 50 inpatient therapeutic sites across the country to provide children with urgently needed treatment. Through a rapid response mechanism carried out jointly with WFP, UNICEF continues to reach communities in the most remote locations. These rapid response missions treat thousands of children for malnutrition as well as provide them with immunization services, safe water and sanitation which also prevents recurring malnutrition.



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